

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

OMB-01 EUR-12 SAM-01 SAB-01 /078 W

----- 035115

R 081509Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8517

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

DIA WASHDC

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN FRG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, IS, EG, SY

SUBJ: PERSHING AND ISRAELI DETERRENT CAPABILITY

1. ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS STATEMENT MADE BY DEFMIN PERES DURING OCT 7 SPEECH TO UJA GROUP THAT ISRAEL WOULD WITHDRAW ITS REQUEST FOR PERSHING MISSILES ONLY IF EGYPT WERE TO DISPOSE OF ITS SCUD AND FROG SUFRACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES. PERES WAS REPORTEDLY REFERRING TO STORIES THAT SADAT WOULD OBJECT TO THE SUPPLY OF PERSHING TO ISRAEL DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO U.S. GOI PRESS BULLETIN QUOTES PERES AS SAYING "IF EGYPT WANTS TO PREVENT ISRAEL FROM OBTAINING MISSILES TO NEUTRALIZE THE THREAT POSED BY MISSILES IN EGYPT'S POSSESSION, PRESIDENT SADAT WILL HAVE TO REMOVE FROM THE AREA THE MISSILES OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE".

2. DURING OCT 3 DISCUSSION WITH IDF SPOKESMAN BG DOV SION, AMBASSADOR INQUIRED AS TO REAL NEED FOR PERSHING. ACCORDING TO SION, EGYPT AND SYRIA ACQUIRED SCUD'S IN RESPONSE TO PROVEN CAPABILITY OF ISRAELI AIR FORCE TO BOMB STRATEGIC TARGETS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. UNFORTUNATE LESSON LEARNED DURING 1973 WAR, HOWEVER, IS THAT IAF RESOURCES ARE TOO THIN DURING

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HOSTILITIES TO PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT TO GROUND FORCES, MAINTAIN

CLEAR SKIES OVER ISRAEL, AND AT SAME TIME CONDUCT STRATEGIC
BOMBING RAIDS. SION CONCLUDED THAT IT IS IN FACT ISRAEL
THAT IS NOW IN NEED OF A DETERRENT CAPABILITY AGAINST ARAB USE OF
THE SCUD, AND THE PERSHING APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY ANSWER.
TOON

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